

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:

First Named Inventor: IONS, PHILIP JAMES

Art Unit: 1742

Application No.: 10/821,952

Examiner: S. Kastler

Filed: April 12, 2004

Confirmation No.: 2378

For: DIRECT SMELTING PLANT

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**RESPONSE**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of May 12, 2006, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Remarks** begin on page 2 of this paper.